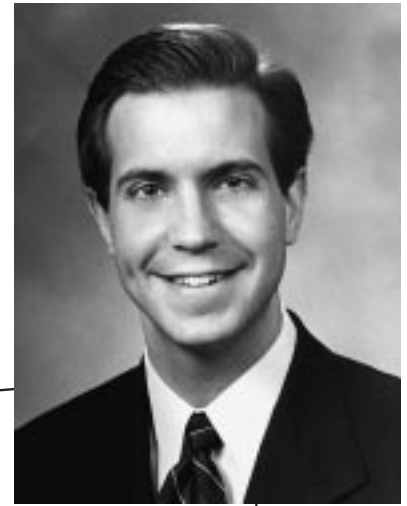


CALVIN GOINGS

★ WASHINGTON STATE SENATOR • 25th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT ★



Washington State Senate

Senator Calvin Goings
Assistant Floor Leader
25th Legislative District

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April, 1998

Dear Neighbors,

Since you sent me to the Legislature, my goal has remained the same: to restore people's belief in their state government by making it work for the people.

I believe the Legislature made more progress this year toward that goal, specifically in the area of criminal justice and community protection. We also suffered some serious setbacks in my opinion, but no one ever said that reforming government would be easy or quick.

Please take a few minutes to read this brief report on some of the issues we considered that have a direct effect on the people of our area. It is, by no means, a full report on all the activities of the legislative session, however, so if you want more information on any issue or specific bill, please give me a call, or send a letter or e-mail. In addition, you may want to look at the Legislature's website. All of those addresses are listed on the back.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months, especially since our district office is open again. Please stop by and visit any time. Remember, I work for you — and working together, we can make a difference!

Warm regards,

State Senator
25th Legislative District

Standing Committees: Education • Law and Justice • Transportation
Select Committees: Joint Select Committee on Education Restructuring • Legislative Transportation Committee

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FIGHTING CRIME

✓ ***Tough New DUI Laws***

People who drive drunk aren't "making a mistake," they're committing a crime that puts everyone around them in danger; and we as a community need to respond accordingly to protect ourselves and our loved ones. This year, I co-sponsored some long-overdue changes to our DUI laws:

- Blood-alcohol (BAC) limit reduced from .10 down to .08;
- 90-day license suspension for first offense;
- Electronic home monitoring for repeat offenders;
- Seven-year license suspension on third offense;
- Mandatory ignition-locking devices for those convicted with BAC of .15 or above;
- Conviction remains on police record for seven years, not just five; and
- Deferred prosecution allowed only once.



Ignition interlock devices are now mandatory for drivers convicted with especially high blood-alcohol concentrations.

✓ ***Hard Time for Meth Makers***

The second time was the charm on this one. Last year, Gov. Locke vetoed most of my bill cracking down on drug thugs who make methamphetamine. So we worked on it and came back this year with a plan that he could sign. The new law puts meth makers in prison for five years — on a first offense.

Again, these people are not "making a mistake" with their drug dealing. They are intentionally committing serious crimes — and they don't deserve second chances.

✓ ***"Two Bongs Don't Make a Right"***

One of the weird quirks of our law is that drugs are illegal but drug paraphernalia is legal. In fact, a "head shop" opened up on South Hill last year directly across the street from one school and just down the street from another. Enough is enough.

I sponsored a measure this year that someone called the "Two Bongs Don't Make a Right" bill. It outlaws the selling or giving of any drug paraphernalia to anyone under 18. Until we can outlaw this stuff altogether, this will at least help keep it out of the hands of children.

EDUCATION

✓ ***Missed Opportunities***

This was a banner year for missed opportunities to improve education in our state. No one ever accused me of throwing money at problems, but at a time when the state has close to a billion-dollar revenue surplus, the Legislature failed to make some relatively modest investments that would have paid tremendous dividends in terms of improved education.

I co-sponsored measures that would have:

- Reduced class size (Washington's classes are the fourth most overcrowded in America);
- Helped districts train teachers to use new classroom technology to its potential;
- Helped local schools pay for before- and after-school tutoring, Saturday academies, and more summer school; and
- Relieved local property-tax payers from some of the school-funding burden.

Each of these ideas was rejected by state budget writers. So Washington students and local taxpayers continue to get the short end. We could have — and should have — done better.



Webelos Den 5 of Pack 557, Boy Scouts of America, visited me at the Senate chamber in Olympia, and toured the capitol to earn a Citizenship Activity Pin. Pictured with me are leader John Stark and Webelos Johnny Stark, Tyler Kain, Mitch Boguth, Cody Roberts, and Jordan Anderson.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

REFORMING GOVERNMENT

✓ *Of The People, By The People, For The People*

With the idea that government of the people and by the people should work for the people, not the other way around, I supported two important bills that bring some common sense back into both state and local government.

Surface Water Fees — Keeping people from being flooded out of their homes is important; but so is making sure that the elderly and disabled on fixed incomes don't get taxed out of their homes! Pierce County is increasing its surface water fees 300% this spring to deal with flooding. My bill (SB 6221) just says that the elderly and disabled can be exempted from such increases.

Regulatory Reform — HB 2395 simply requires state agencies to let businesses know when they change rules that businesses have to comply with. Pretty simple — but amazingly enough, it was a new idea!

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

✓ *The Largest Debt Authorization In State History*

While I'm reluctant to "throw money at a problem," I'm even more reluctant to throw debt at one. But that's exactly what the proposed transportation spending plan does: it authorizes \$1.9 billion in debt — by far the largest debt in the history of the State of Washington — to pay for just five years of road work. But when our children and grandchildren finish paying the tab 25 years from now, the total bill will have run up to \$5 billion. \$5 billion over 25 years just to pay for five years of road work. That just plain makes no sense to me.

I voted no. We have important projects in our area that need a longer-term approach than that. We could have — and should have — done better. The Legislature approved the plan, however, and — having bypassed the Governor — it will be on the November ballot.

Thank You, Pages!

Local students get a firsthand look at the process

The state Senate is full of men and women in suits during the legislative session. But everyone knows that it's that energetic legion of students in the red jackets who really keep things moving along smoothly. The Senate pages are invaluable, running documents and messages between the House and Senate, and from office to office. This year's pages from the 25th District were no exception. My thanks to each of them.



Ashley Hayes
Mountain View Junior High



Dan Poysnick
Rogers High School



Alan Kropf
Kalles Junior High School



Jaylene Belcher
Rogers High School

Honorary Pages:

★ Eric Capestany ★
Ferrucci Junior High School

★ Billy Reisz ★
Ferrucci Junior High School

★ Danielle Wiley ★
Sumner Junior High School

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Keep In Touch

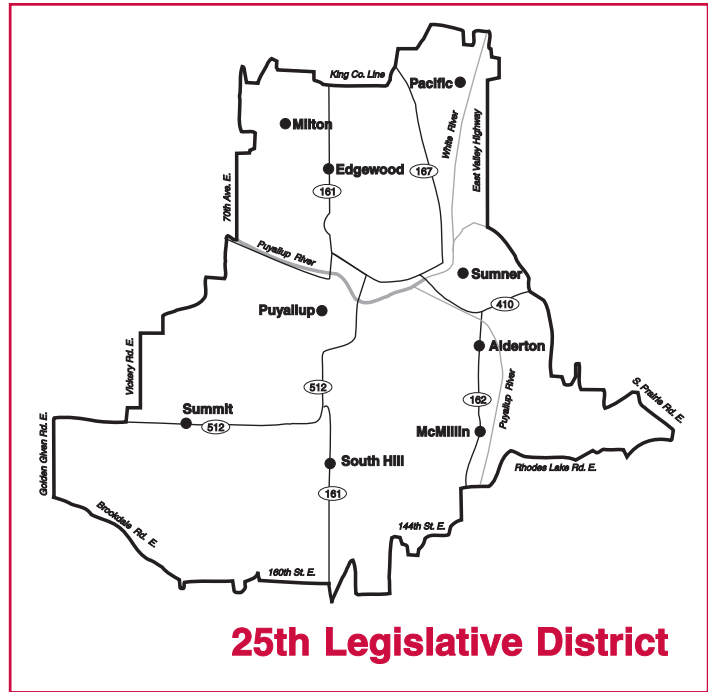
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25th Legislative District

Legislative Update

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